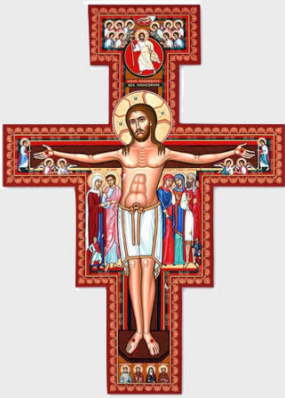


# FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 | 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT



## St. Thomas Aquinas

### CATHOLIC CHURCH & STUDENT CENTER

The Diocese of Shreveport

#### MISSION STATEMENT

*We, as members of the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community of faith in the Diocese of Shreveport, affirm our mission to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to both the local and Catholic college community in the Ruston, Louisiana area. We commit ourselves to God and to this community through a spirit of welcoming and service in the spirit of Christ.*

#### SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday: 5:00PM Vigil  
Sunday: 9:30AM  
1:30PM (Spanish)  
7:00PM (Sept. - May)

#### DAILY MASSES

Tuesday: 8:15AM  
Wednesday: 8:15AM  
Thursday: 8:15AM  
Friday: 12:00PM

#### BAPTISM

Please call the Church Office to schedule

#### MARRIAGE

Please call Church Office SIX MONTHS in advance to schedule

#### PENANCE & RECONCILIATION

Tuesday-Thursday 7:30AM-8:00AM  
Friday 11:15 AM - 11:45 AM  
Saturday: 3:30PM to 4:45PM

#### STAFF/TELEPHONE EXT.

Fr. Kevin Mues (318) 310-4007 **Pastor**  
Deacon John Serio  
Deacon Robert Ransom  
Marcie Tucker (318) 255-2870 **Business Manager**  
Elise Reis (318) 310-4009 **Religious Education Director**  
Elaine Johnson **President of Pastoral Council**  
Thurston Allen **Chairman of Finance Council**  
St. Vincent de Paul Society (318)255-8090

FIRST SUNDAY OF  
**Lent**

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FEBRUARY 26, 2023

At that time Jesus was  
let by the Spirit into the desert  
to be tempted by the devil.

Matthew 4:1

#### NEW PARISHIONERS

“May the Church be a place of God’s mercy and hope, where all feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live according to the good life of the Gospel. And to make others feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged, the Church must be with doors wide open so that all may enter. And we must go out through these doors and proclaim the Gospel.” - Pope Francis

Please contact the office to register your membership if you are new in our community.

813 Carey Ave. | Ruston, Louisiana 71270 | 318-255-2870 | stthomasaquinasruston.com

**PARISHIONERS BIRTHDAYS**

<b><u>February 1<sup>st</sup></u></b>	Michael Hinton
<b><u>February 2<sup>nd</sup></u></b>	Libby Manning Aylmer Rainwater
<b><u>February 4<sup>th</sup></u></b>	Wyatt Rust
<b><u>February 6<sup>th</sup></u></b>	Iris Reis Kaejha Stewart
<b><u>February 7<sup>th</sup></u></b>	Ralph Pettijohn Francisco Negrete
<b><u>February 8<sup>th</sup></u></b>	Charlie Rogers Cathy Riggan
<b><u>February 9<sup>th</sup></u></b>	Christi Faulker Martin Aviles
<b><u>February 12<sup>th</sup></u></b>	Margaret Stanton Roan Sutherland Britney Aguirre Gail Lindsey
<b><u>February 13<sup>th</sup></u></b>	Matthew Bryan
<b><u>February 15<sup>th</sup></u></b>	Roland Baudoin
<b><u>February 17<sup>th</sup></u></b>	Elizabeth Rodriguez
<b><u>February 18<sup>th</sup></u></b>	Margie Strickler
<b><u>February 19<sup>th</sup></u></b>	Melissa Hernandez
<b><u>February 20<sup>th</sup></u></b>	Linda Viator Samantha Shuff Dusty Rust
<b><u>February 21<sup>st</sup></u></b>	Jesus Salazar
<b><u>February 22<sup>nd</sup></u></b>	Gwen Barron Michelle McCumber
<b><u>February 24<sup>th</sup></u></b>	Cindy Bimle
<b><u>February 25<sup>th</sup></u></b>	Cesario Gonzalez
<b><u>February 28<sup>th</sup></u></b>	Adams Perot

If I've missed your birthday, please email me at [stacbulletin@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:stacbulletin@suddenlinkmail.com) so that I can add you to the master list.

**THE CALENDAR AT A GLANCE****Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 AM - Sunday Mass  
1:30 PM - Misa en Español  
7:00 PM - Sunday Mass

**Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 AM - 4:00PM - Church Office Open  
5:30 PM - Chaplet of Divine Mercy

**Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 AM - 8:00AM Penance & Reconciliation  
8:15 AM - Daily Mass  
9:00 AM - 4:00PM - Church Office Open  
10:00 AM - Lectio Divina  
6:30 PM - El Manto de Maria

**Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**

7:30 AM - 8:00AM Penance & Reconciliation  
8:15 AM - Daily Mass  
9:00 AM - 4:00PM - Church Office Open

**Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

7:30 AM - 8:00AM Penance & Reconciliation  
8:15 AM - Daily Mass  
9:00 AM - 4:00PM - Church Office Open

**Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

9:00 AM - 1:00PM - Church Office Open  
11:15 AM - 11:45AM Penance & Reconciliation  
12:00 PM - Daily Mass  
6:00 PM - Stations of the Cross

**Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**

3:30PM - 4:45AM Penance & Reconciliation  
5:00 PM - Vigil Mass



If you would like to donate flowers in the church, please sign up at the bulletin board in the church vestibule. Please call Carol Mercier at **(318)254-8826** for more information.

The Diocese has created an electronic newsletter for news and events around the diocese, as well as educational content about our Catholic faith. Please subscribe to it by scanning the QR code in the bulletin or by visiting the diocesan website.



### Ministry Schedule

#### February 25<sup>th</sup> 2023

**Lectors:** George Trevison and Dolly Hurtig

**EMHC:** Slade Richard and John Ryan Serio

**Altar Servers:** Cedric, Kevin & Peter Serio

#### February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Lectors:** Jim Martin and Larry Mullens

**EMHC:** Elaine Johnson, Lily Ann Sklar, Tom Bishop and Emily Chartier

**Altar Servers:** Ava and Olivia Good

#### March 4<sup>th</sup> 2023

**Lectors:** John Allen and Tom Garza

**EMHC:** George Trevison and Mary Carol Vidrine

**Altar Servers:** Jack, Jessie and Julie Groce

#### March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Lectors:** Thomas Rogers and Carmen Bishop

**EMHC:** Carol Mercier, Tom Bishop, Rodney Manning and Emily Chartier

**Altar Servers:** Brennan & Matthew Jackson, Kaejha Stewart



Please contact the parish office to have names added to our prayer list.

Quintana Atkins  
Miriam Bishop  
Charles Bourgeois  
Judy Bower  
Frankie Career  
Judy Darcey  
Sean Dwyer  
Becky Ferrell  
Mary Lou French  
Emmely Gay  
Bernice Harrison  
Harvey Hayes  
Maureen Hinton  
Johnnie Hogan  
Magnolia Johnson  
Jeffery Judice  
Roserita Lefevre  
Chris Letendre  
Ken Martinez  
Tobie McKown  
Claudia Michel

Leopoldo Michel  
Rueben Moreno  
Cynthia Murry  
Katherine Ned  
Don Olivier  
Pearline Robey  
Lometa Rorie  
Gloria Saldana  
Laura Leigh Saleese  
Jennie Schutte-Patrick  
Jo Mary Smith  
Nicole Smith  
Polly Smith  
Tyler Sorrels  
Holly Hollis Star  
Willie Tannerhill  
Diane Theriot  
Pam Turner  
Kathleen "Kathy" Walter  
Janice Williams

### Ministry to the Homebound

Please contact the church office or Dc. John Serio (318-278-3600) if you need communion brought to your home. If you are aware of someone that needs communion brought to them please contact us. We do have a team of parishioners ready to assist. If you are a Eucharistic Minister and would like to help with this ministry please contact Dc. John.



The Annual appeal has a new name - **The Catholic Service Appeal**. It also has a new look... a new logo. You can see it in the bulletin today and will see it over the course of the year. United as the Catholic community of Northern Louisiana we have so much to offer.

### STEWARDSHIP SUMMARY

*Weekend of February 11/12*

General Sunday Collection \$9,074.00

*Thank you for continued and generous support!*

### MASS Intentions

#### Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup>

Herman Manuel +  
*(by Tom & Becky Garza)*

#### Sunday February 26<sup>th</sup>

Bobby Ortego +  
*(by Karen Ortego)*

Pedro Perez +  
*(by Aracely Rodriguez)*

Thompson Family  
*(by Barbara Lewis)*

#### Tuesday February 28<sup>th</sup>

Odessa & Augusta Thompson  
*(by Barbara Lewis)*

#### Wednesday March 1<sup>st</sup>

Herman Manuel +  
*(by Tom & Becky Garza)*

#### Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup>

Sandy Gass +  
*(by George & Carmen Trevison)*

#### Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup>

Herman Manuel +  
*(by Terry Buboltz)*

You may have Masses offered for your intentions, or for the intentions of your loved ones, both living and deceased. Please call the parish office for more information and available dates or you can now check our website <https://stthomasaquinasruston.com/calendar/>

**SUNDAYS AT A GLANCE – February Faith Formation Schedule****Feb. 26 Breakout Sunday**

Confirmation A and Confirmation B. First Communion (2<sup>nd</sup>). SEEKERS. Adult Education Small Group. Family of Faith PreK, 1, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Clusters. High School Small Group. Men's Small Group. Women's Small Group

**March 5 Formation Sunday**

We will have a special guest speaker from the Diocese of Shreveport

Delia Barr, Director of Faith Formation, will lead the adult lecture and discuss practical ways she has experience the Family of Faith program implemented in our parishes. You will not want to miss this Sunday!



**March 12 and 19** are modified Breakout Sundays. They fall on Lincoln Parish Schools' Spring Break. There will be no sacrament classes, no Family of Faith clusters meeting, and no high school small group. Adult small groups may meet at will. Please check with your adult leader for specific schedules.

**March 26 Breakout Week**

All classes and adult groups will resume normal meetings.

**April 2 Palm Sunday, No Classes,**

A video lecture will be sent out for Family of Faith this month. No Formation Sunday due to Holy Week.

**April 9 Easter Sunday, Easter Egg Hunt, No Classes****April 16 Breakout Sunday****April 23 Breakout Sunday****April 30 Breakout Sunday****May 7 Closing Lecture and Share for Family of Faith****MORE RESOURCES FOR YOU****FAMILY OF FAITH**

Remember to check your email the Monday following Formation Sunday for a recap video of the monthly lecture and the parent pacing guide for the month.

**Want to add Liturgical Resources to you Family of Faith home experience?**

Subscribe for free to receive full month of activities to go with the Sunday readings.

<https://sophiateachers.org/lesson-category/teaching-the-liturgical-year/>

Or, view weekly readings online at

<https://sophiateachers.org/liturgical/>.

**Family of Faith Volunteers Needed!** Catechists and security team members are needed weekly for the Family of Faith Sunday morning lessons. Please sign up on the Google form if you would like to volunteer on a rotational basis. Thank you!

**Youth Spring Retreat - March 25 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**

**OWL CENTER:** All Confirmation B students, OCIA high school students, and High School Small Group students are invited to the Youth Spring Retreat. Bring your completed release forms and \$40 (cash or check) to the PSR office or to your catechist. Release forms and money are due by March 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Stations of the Cross:** Confirmation A (Deacon Ransom and Ms. Courtney Reger's class) will lead the Way of the Cross on Friday, March 24 @ 6:00 pm in the church. This class will discuss this devotion and practice during class on Sundays.

**LENT "HOLY PAUSE" –Evening Retreat and Dinner 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

All are invited to attend Stations of the Cross from 6:00 pm – 6:30 pm. The evening of a Lenten "holy pause" will be a prayer and activity based retreat perfect for busy families who need a special break to focus on the season of Lent. It will be in the Luffey gym and a simple meatless dinner will be served.

**SPECIAL MEETINGS - SACRAMENTS****Feb. 26 – Confirmation B Parent Meeting @ 11:45 am – 12:15 pm (AV Room)**

Parents will hear about the upcoming retreat plan. Information about sponsors and appropriate documentation for students and sponsors will be discussed. Students will get information about writing letters to Bishop Malone to request Confirmation. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting!

**March 5 – First Communion and SEEKERS Parent Meeting 11:45 am – 12:15 pm**

Parents of children in First Communion and SEEKERS will hear about First Reconciliation, practice for the First VBS Committee Needed

If you are interested in being a part of the planning committee for VBS, please contact the PSR office. 318-310-4009 or

[DRE@StThomasAquinasCatholicC877.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:DRE@StThomasAquinasCatholicC877.onmicrosoft.com)







Adoration • Community • Theology • Service  
Not just a retreat...a Way of Life!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our next Women's ACTS Retreat is scheduled for April 13-16, 2023 at the Maryhill Renewal Center in Pineville, LA. Registration is open! The registration form can be found at the link below.

[https://mcusercontent.com/0a05be742765a263d354d169b/files/923ce9a3-e716-834c-60c7-f3302e7d7f37/Women\\_s\\_April\\_Registration\\_2023.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/0a05be742765a263d354d169b/files/923ce9a3-e716-834c-60c7-f3302e7d7f37/Women_s_April_Registration_2023.pdf)

Note: All registration forms must be mailed to the address listed on the form. The registration deadline is Sunday, March 5, 2023.

Grace and Peace in Christ,  
CORE

ACTS of NELA



The Devotion to the Divine Mercy is based on the private revelations of Jesus to Polish Saint Faustina in the 1930's. It recognizes God as infinite mercy and involves a decision to accept God's mercy with thanksgiving, to trust in Him, and to be merciful as He is merciful. One element of the devotion is the Divine Mercy Chaplet, a form of prayer using Rosary beads. The Recitation of the Chaplet is prayed each Monday evening from 5:30 to 6:00 PM in the small chapel. All are welcome!



The Catholic faith, rich with traditions and devotions, will embark on a three year Eucharistic Revival in the United States. The Diocese of Shreveport will offer events throughout 2022-2023 that will encourage growth in understanding and devotion to Christ in the Eucharist, complemented by online formation and resources that will raise up Eucharistic Missionaries at all levels of the Church. The first step is to increase our adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It is through Eucharistic Adoration that we give thanksgiving to God for Christ's True Presence in our lives. Christ, in the Eucharist, is our very sustenance that we are reminded of in John 6:53 (NABRE): "unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you." To learn more about the Eucharist and the Eucharistic Revival, go to <https://www.dioshpt.org/eucharistic-revival> or scan the QR code below. Let's reenergize our faith and approach the throne of grace with clearer understanding of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Jesus, the Source and Summit of the faith, is calling each Catholic to come, adore, and experience his Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist.




**BELONG**


**DIOCESAN YOUTH SUMMIT**

SATURDAY, MARCH 4TH, 2023  
10 AM TO 5:30 PM

Open to grades 6-12

**SPEAKERS:**

 Katie Prejean McGrady

 Tommy McGrady

**LOCATION: THE DIOCESE OF SHREVEPORT CATHOLIC CENTER**

**REGISTRATION: \$25 PER YOUTH REGISTER WITH YOUR PARISH**

**VIRTUS®**  
Protecting God's Children

There is now a desktop computer station available in the Joe & Roger Luffey Youth Room that is designated for completing Virtus bulletins and Protecting God's Children online training. If you need internet access to complete your monthly Virtus bulletins, you are encouraged to use this computer station. Directions on how to set up your online account will be in a binder. All adults are highly encouraged to complete a Protecting God's Children session one time and then to stay up to date with the safe environment guidelines by completing a monthly bulletin through the online Virtus personal account.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ahora hay una estación de computadora disponible en la Sala de Jóvenes Joe & Roger Luffey que está designada para completar los boletines de Virtus y la capacitación en línea de Proteger a los niños de Dios. Si necesita acceso a Internet para completar sus boletines mensuales de Virtus, le recomendamos que utilice esta estación informática. Las instrucciones sobre cómo configurar su cuenta en línea estarán en una carpeta. Se recomienda encarecidamente a todos los adultos que completen una sesión de Protección de los Hijos de Dios una vez y luego se mantengan al día con las pautas de ambiente seguro completando un boletín mensual a través de la cuenta personal en línea de Virtus.

**February 26, 2023****First Sunday of Lent****WHO WE ARE AND WHOSE WE ARE**

The Lenten season is a fresh invitation to explore again who God is, who we are, and what it means to be human. We begin by hearing the tragic story of the first humans in the book of Genesis. As Paul describes in Romans, our struggles started when our ancestors broke the bond of unity with God, sought self-sufficiency, and grew apart from their true purpose and identity. In Matthew's Gospel, we see how Jesus resists the lure of living outside of unity with God. Jesus rejects false promises of possessions, power, and status. Instead, he puts his life in his Father's hands. As our model for living as a fully human person, Jesus demonstrates that we are created to live in relationship with and trust in God, and in harmony with and for all of creation.

**TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — The man and the woman ate the fruit of the one tree that God had told them to avoid, and their shame overtook them (Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7).

**Psalm** — Have mercy on us sinners, O Lord (Psalm 51).

**Second Reading** — Death reigned from Adam to Moses, but now grace and life abound in Christ Jesus (Romans 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]).

**Gospel** — Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and there he fasted for forty days and forty nights (Matthew 4:1-11).

**CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER****Prayer during Lent**

Holy God,  
now is the acceptable time to return to you.  
As we walk the path of these forty days,  
may we turn away from sin  
and embrace a life of goodness and truth.  
Strengthen us on our Lenten journey  
and keep us focused on the cross and resurrection  
of your Son, our Savior and Redeemer.  
He is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

**OUR FASCINATING FAITH****Lent**

One of the liturgical reforms mandated at the Second Vatican Council was that the focus of the season of Lent should be restored as a time of preparation for—or renewal of—baptism. The bishops at the Council were aware of the fact that the origins of Lent as a distinctive liturgical season lay in the early centuries when the Church celebrated the sacraments of Christian initiation only once a year, at the Easter Vigil. In order to prepare those who were to receive those sacraments, a special period of preparation (eventually lasting forty days) gradually developed.

By the time of the Second Vatican Council, the initiatory character of Lent had long been forgotten, and it had become simply a time of penance focused on individual spiritual renewal. The introduction of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and the revision of the Lectionary after the Council have changed all of that. Now the Sunday scripture readings during Lent are very carefully selected with an eye to the journey of those preparing to be initiated at the Easter Vigil. Once again, the entire community is asked to undergo penance in solidarity with the candidates for Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Thus, in order to appreciate fully the meaning of the readings during this season, the “filter” through which they must be heard is always the knowledge that we are helping to prepare our sisters and brothers in the catechumenate for their initiation at the Easter Vigil.

**LOVE AND DEEDS**

God doesn't want our deeds; God wants the love that prompts them.  
—St. Teresa of Ávila

**GOOD TIMING**

The best time to do something worthwhile is between yesterday and tomorrow.  
—Anonymous

**26 de febrero de 2023****Primer Domingo de Cuaresma****QUIÉNES SOMOS Y DE QUIÉNES SOMOS**

El tiempo de Cuaresma es una nueva invitación a explorar de nuevo quién es Dios, quiénes somos nosotros y qué significa ser humano. Comenzamos escuchando la trágica historia de los primeros seres humanos en el libro del Génesis. Como describe Pablo en Romanos, nuestras luchas comenzaron cuando nuestros antepasados rompieron el vínculo de unidad con Dios, buscaron la autosuficiencia y se apartaron de su verdadero propósito e identidad. En el Evangelio de Mateo, vemos cómo Jesús se resiste a la tentación de vivir fuera de la unidad con Dios. Jesús rechaza las falsas promesas de posesiones, poder y estatus. En cambio, pone su vida en manos de su Padre. Como modelo para vivir como una persona plenamente humana, Jesús demuestra que hemos sido creados para vivir en relación con Dios y confiar en él, y en armonía con y para toda la creación.

**LECTURAS DE HOY**

**Primera lectura** — Entonces se les abrieron los ojos y ambos se dieron cuenta de que estaban desnudos.

Cosieron, pues, unas hojas de higuera, y se hicieron unos taparrabos. (Génesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7).

**Salmo** — Ten piedad de nosotros los pecadores, oh Señor (Salmo 51 [50]).

**Segunda lectura** — Una sola trasgresión acarreó sentencia de muerte para todos, pero la rehabilitación merecida por uno solo, obtuvo perdón y vida para todos (Romanos 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]).

**Evangelio** — Adorarás al Señor, tu Dios, y a él solo servirás (Mateo 4:1-11).

**LA ESQUINA DE ORACIÓN CATÓLICA****Oración durante la Cuaresma**

Dios santo,  
ahora es el momento aceptable para volver a ti.  
Mientras recorremos el camino de estos cuarenta días,  
que nos alejemos del pecado  
y abracemos una vida de bondad y verdad.  
Fortalécenos en nuestro camino cuaresmal  
y manténnos centrados en la cruz y la resurrección  
de tu Hijo, nuestro Salvador y Redentor.  
Él es el Señor por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.

**NUESTRA FASCINANTE FE****Cuaresma**

Una de las reformas litúrgicas ordenadas en el Concilio Vaticano II fue la de restablecer el enfoque del tiempo de Cuaresma como tiempo de preparación -o de renovación- del bautismo. Los obispos del Concilio eran conscientes de que los orígenes de la Cuaresma como tiempo litúrgico distintivo se encontraban en los primeros siglos, cuando la Iglesia celebraba los sacramentos de la iniciación cristiana sólo una vez al año, en la Vigilia Pascual. Para preparar a los que iban a recibir esos sacramentos, se desarrolló gradualmente un período especial de preparación (que llegó a durar cuarenta días).

En la época del Concilio Vaticano II, el carácter iniciático de la Cuaresma se había olvidado hace tiempo, y se había convertido en un simple tiempo de penitencia centrado en la renovación espiritual individual. La introducción del Rito de Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos y la revisión del Leccionario después del Concilio han cambiado todo esto. Ahora, las lecturas dominicales de la Cuaresma se seleccionan cuidadosamente teniendo en cuenta el camino de los que se preparan para ser iniciados en la Vigilia Pascual. Una vez más, se pide a toda la comunidad que haga penitencia en solidaridad con los candidatos al Bautismo, la Confirmación y la Eucaristía.

Así, para apreciar plenamente el significado de las lecturas de este tiempo, el “filtro” a través del cual hay que escucharlas es siempre el conocimiento de que estamos ayudando a preparar a nuestros hermanos y hermanas en el catecumenado para su iniciación en la Vigilia Pascual.

**DON QUIJOTE**

El Don Quijote de una generación puede llegar a verse llamado “salvador de la sociedad” por la siguiente.  
—James Russell Lowell

**TIEMPO OPORTUNO**

El mejor momento de hacer algo es entre ayer y mañana.  
—Anónimo

200 for this week

**MAIL TO:**  
**813 CAREY AVENUE**  
**RUSTON, LA 71270**

**ADD PAGE IF NEEDED**